

Remarks

The Interview

Applicants, the licensee, and the undersigned greatly appreciated the opportunity to interview this application with the examiner, supervisor David Isabella, and quality control specialist Greg Vidovich, on December 9, 2009, at the U.S. Patent Office. The extremely helpful discussion with Mr. Isabella are also greatly appreciated. The claims have been amended as discussed at the interview and in the telephone calls with Mr. Isabella.

The term “formed” has been replaced with “consisting of”. As discussed, this more clearly distinguishes prior art devices which include materials such as stainless steel or collagen, in combination with biodegradable synthetic polymers.

The polymer has been amended to refer to synthetic biocompatible chemically degradable polymers. See original issued patent U.S. 6,348,069, col. 4, to col. 5, line 43. Explicit support for synthetic is found at col. 4, line 6. Explicit support for chemically biodegradable is found at col. 4, lines 2-4. Explicit support for synthetic rather than natural polymers is found at col. 4, lines 33-39. These amendments were made to distinguish any potential prior art using collagen or other polymers which are enzymatically degraded, not hydrolytically (chemically) degraded.

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SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Claim 9 has been amended to refer to the preferred polymers.

Allowance of claims 1-5, 8, 11-14, 18, and 19 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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